

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 171011Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2140

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN RELATIONS WITH ZANU WING OF ANC DETERIORATE

1. ZAMBIAN RELATIONS WITH THE ZANU WING OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RHODESIA, NEVER VERY CLOSE, HAVE DETERIORATED SHARPLY IN THE PAST WEEK. IN PART THIS DETERIORATION REFLECTS GROWING STRAINS OF ANC INTERNAL FEUDING IN WHICH PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S SYMPATHIES HAVE BEEN MORE WITH THE ZAPU WING HEADED BY JOSHUA NKOMO THAN WITH MORE MILITANT ZANU OF NDABANINGI SITHOLE.

2. ON SEPT 11 FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN CAMP NEAR KABWE WHERE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF ZANU, ZAPU, AND FROLIZI HAVE BEEN REGROUPED FOR REORGANIZATION AND TRAINING AS PART OF NEW ANC MILITARY FORCE. ZAMBIAN ARMY TROOPS INTERVENED DURING WHICH ZAMBIAN LIEUTENANT WAS SPEARED TO DEATH BY ZANU MEMBER. ZAMBIAN TROOPS OPENED FIRE, KILLING ELEVEN AND WOUNDING EIGHT FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

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3. PRESIDENT KAUNDA PERSONALLY LED 500 MOURNERS AT BURIAL OF LIEUTENANT ON SEPT. 16. IN GRAVE-SIDE SPEECH PRESIDENT LASHED OUT AT ZANU FOR CAUSING TURMOIL IN ZAMBIA, WARNED THAT ITS RANKS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED BY RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AGENTS, TWO OF WHOM WERE ALLEGEDLY SEIZED AMONG THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEPT 11 INCIDENT. TERMING ZANU "THIS SMALL BUNCH OF SELL-OUTS WORKING FOR IAN SMITH," PRESIDENT NEVERTHELESS APPEALED TO ZAMBIAN ARMY AND PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM AND NOT RETALIATE AGAINST ZIMBABWEANS.

4. MEANWHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REPLIED ANGRILY SEPT 16 TO STATEMENT IN SALISBURY BY ENOS NKALA, MEMBER OF ZANU WING OF ANC, THAT ANC IN LUSAKA HAD GIVEN KAUNDA "AN ULTIMATUM" TO STOP SUPPORTING NKOMO. NKALA HAD REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT ANC COULD DO WITHOUT KAUNDA AND ZAMBIA BUT NOT WITHOUT SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTS NYERERE AND MACHEL. FONMIN SPOKESMAN CALLED NKALA "A PROVEN AGENT AND RUNNING DOG OF RACIST COLONIALISTS IN ZIMBABWE" AND ASKED IN WHOSE INTEREST NKALA IS WORKING TO DIVIDE ZAMBIA FROM TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. NKALA WARNED TO BEWARE WRATH OF ZAMBIAN PEOPLE IF HE CONTINUES TO HEAP INSULTS ON THEIR BELOVED LEADER.

5. COMMENT: BLATANT NKALA EFFORT TO SUGGEST RIFT BETWEEN KAUNDA AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS OVER ANC CONTROVERSEY PROBABLY MORE WISHFUL THINKING THAN FACT. ZAMBIANS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN VERY CLOSE-MOUTHED ABOUT LAST WEEKEND'S SUMMIT MEETING IN LUSAKA AT WHICH ANC SPLIT AS WELL AS ANGOLA WAS DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT KAUNDA, WHO NOW WHOLLY DEPENDENT UPON TANZANIAN AND MOZAMBIKAN PORTS TO MOVE ZAMBIA'S COPPER AND TO BRING IN VITAL IMPORTS, WOULD HAVE SPLIT WITH NYERERE AND MACHEL OVER THIS ISSUE. MORE LIKELY "MULUNGUSHI FOUR" LEADERS AGREED CONTINUE RECOGNIZE BISHOP MUZOREWA AS ANC PRESIDENT AND TO SEEK USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE THEY COLLECTIVELY POSSESS TO URGE ANC LEADERS RESOLVE THEIR LEADERSHIP PROBLEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH RECENT EVENTS SUGGEST THAT ZAMBIAN - ZANU RELATIONS NOW VERY CLOSE TO BREAKING POINT, WE DOUBT KAUNDA WOULD TAKE ACTION TO DETAIN SITHOLE AND OTHER ZANU MILITANTS IN ZAMBIA WITHOUT FIRST CLEARING THIS STEP WITH NYERERE AND MACHEL. MOREOVER, BEFORE DOING SO HE WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE CONVINCING EVIDENCE, WHICH WE DOUBT EXISTS, TO LINK SITHOLE DIRECTLY WITH THE SEPT. 11 FRACAS OR NKALA'S REMARKS.

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WILKOWSKI

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